

**SENATE RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESSIONAL  
ACTION RELATED TO THE NAVAJO NATION'S  
ABILITY TO COLLECT CHILD SUPPORT**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Mike Dmitrich**

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This Senate resolution addresses federal action that would improve the Navajo Nation's ability to collect child support.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This Senate resolution:

- provides background on the importance of the efficient collection of child support for the health, education, and welfare of children who are part of the Navajo Nation;
- encourages actions by Utah's congressional delegation related to federal obstacles to the efficient collection of child support; and
- provides for the distribution of the resolution.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is the largest Native American tribe within the boundaries of the United States, and is larger than 10 of the 50 states;

WHEREAS, Navajo children under 18 years of age comprise almost half of the total population of the Navajo Nation;

WHEREAS, approximately 61% of Navajo grandparents are responsible for



grandchildren under 18 years of age;

WHEREAS, over half of the population of the Navajo Nation lives below the poverty level, and over 40% of individuals on the Navajo Nation are unemployed;

WHEREAS, collecting child support for children whose parents are able to pay child support may be critical in the health, education, and welfare of a significant portion of Navajo children;

WHEREAS, the federal government granted the Navajo Nation and 39 other tribes the ability to collect child support, establish paternity, and enforce child and medical support obligations, but did not grant the Navajo Nation access to information essential for investigation and enforcement;

WHEREAS, the federal government has suggested that states charge the Navajo Nation for access to important information concerning potential payers of child support; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has suggested changes that the United States Congress can make to improve the ability to collect child support for Navajo Nation members:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the state of Utah urges Utah's congressional delegation to take appropriate steps on behalf of the Navajo Nation to increase the Navajo Nation's effectiveness in child support collection and enforcement including addressing federal obstacles to the Navajo Nation's ability to develop its own tribal child support computer system, to the Navajo Nation's access to location and enforcement tools, to the development of a model tribal child support system, and to the securing of matching funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of Utah's congressional delegation, the president of the Navajo Nation, and the speaker of the house of the Navajo Nation.

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**Legislative Review Note**

**as of 2-22-08 10:13 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note****S.R. 5 - Senate Resolution Encouraging Congressional Action Related to the  
Navajo Nation's Ability to Collect Child Support**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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